(a) whether it is a fact that the Telecom Regulator had submitted its recommendations on Broadband Wireless Services during 2006;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for not taking any action on those recommendations and by when these are likely to be accepted; and

(d) the number of operators who are going to get the licence for the Broadband Wireless Services and by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has given its recommendations on spectrum for Broadband Wireless Services. The guidelines for allotment of Broadband Wireless Access (BWA) spectrum are to be formulated taking into account all relevant aspects, including these TRAI recommendations.

Submarine cable landing station

1852. SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN:
SHRI MOHAMMED AMIN:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 3055 given in Rajya Sabha on 3rd May, 2007 and state:

(a) the name of the consultant appointed for the project;

(b) whether the consultant has given its report;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, by when the report would be given; and

(e) the tentative time schedule to start the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) M/s Datawave Limited of UK was appointed as phase-I consultant to examine feasibility/viability of the project and Return on Investment. M/s Axiom of France has been appointed as phase-II consultant for providing assistance till the completion of the project.

(b) to (d) M/s Datawave Limited of UK have submitted the report. M/s Axiom have also submitted a detailed analysis of Indian landing stations along with its recommendations. The Desktop study of the proposed cable route is being done in parallel by M/s Axiom.

(e) The tentative time schedule to start the project is January-February, 2008.

Global auction of 3G spectrum

1853. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL:
SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to opt for global auction of third generation technology popularly known as 3G spectrum;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) whether Government propose to hold any discussion with telecom operators on 2G and 3G licences; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (d) The guidelines for allotment and use of 3G spectrum are to be formulated taking into account all relevant aspects.

Customer growth rate of BSNL

1854. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA:
SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN:
SHRI MOHAMMED AMIN:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in the last four months of this year *i.e.* between March-July, 2007, BSNL could extend its customer base only by 1 million whereas other private players have been able to increase their base 4 or 5 times than BSNL which lead to slipping of BSNL to 4th Place from the 2nd;

(b) if so, the reasons for not able to attract the customers by BSNL;

(c) the percentage of customer growth rate of BSNL during the last three years *vis-a-vis* private players; quarter-wise; and

(d) the number of circles in which BSNL is in operation, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Sir, during the four month period (March-June, 2007) growth of customer base of BSNL and private operators was as follows:

Item	BSNL	Private Operators
Addition of wireline and wireless subscribers	2.9 million	18.91 million

BSNL was at second position in terms of total number of wireless subscribers and retained first position in terms of wire line subscriber in the country as on 30.6.07.

(b) Reasons for lower increase in customer base of BSNL are as follows:

(i) Capacity constraints in GSM mobile equipment.

(ii) Poor supply of Fixed Wireless Terminals (FWT) by the vendor.

(iii) Surrender/disconnection of landline telephones by customers.